

THE PARISH OF KILMALLOCK.

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SITUATION. This Parish is bounded on the north by the Parishes of Drummin, Uregar and Kilbreedy Major; on the east by the Parishes of Kilbreedy Major, Kilquan and Ballingaddy; on the south by Kilbreedy Minor and Effin and on the west by the Parishes of Tankardstown and Kilbreedy Minor.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in the original Irish Cill Mocheallog, which signifies the Cell or Church of St. Mochellog, who was the original Patron of the Parish; but after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans it was placed under the Patronage of SS. Peter and Paul and old Mochellóg was laid aside.

Dr. Lanigan and Moore have hesitated to assert that it is certain that the Cill Mocheallog of the ancients is the present Town of Kilmallock, but there can be no doubt of their identity as every man in the Province of Munster calls Kilmallock by no other name than Kill Mocheallog (Cill Mocheallóg) when speaking Irish.

I shall first insert here what the Irish writers have collected of the History of Kilmallock, and then proceed to describe the remains to be seen there at present.

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Kilmallock (anciently Killochia and Kilmocheallog).

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AA. SS., p.749, Col.I.

Vit. S. Mochelloici Kellocie patrono.

Both domestic and foreign Martyrologies state that the festival of St. Mochelloc (whom some writers erroneously call Mottellog (1) and others more properly Cellen (2) or Kellen) is celebrated on this 26th March. And although he was a man of most approved sanctity and his veneration is as yet in

flourishing observance in the town commonly denominated Kill-mochelloe from his name and called in Latin Kellochia, in which as patron of the place his festival is celebrated on this day; very little occurs to be observed about him, because we have not seen his acts. 310

He is said to have been the son of Tuladhan (3) or as others think, of Oblen (4) (who was, I think, his grandfather or great grandfather) of the noble and ancient stock (5) of Conaire, the second King of Ireland. He flourished about the end of the 6th century, as is collected from the Life of S. Finan, Abbot of Kinneitich, who was his relative and contemporary and disciple of S. Brendan, Bishop of Cluanfert. For in that Life (to be given at 7th April) C.24, these (notices) are read (by which the great sanctity and wonderful virtue, or power, of both in performing miracles are shown). Quotations omitted. 311

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This Saint discharged, it is read, the office, not only of Abbot but also of Bishop and successively ruled divers Churches in which he is also venerated; for he is venerated not only in Kellochia in the Territory of Munster called Hi-Cairpre (6) by the ancients; as patron of that town called by ancient writers "Cathair Mac C6chaigh" or Conaigh (7) lying in the Territory of the Desii and the Martyrologies say that he is venerated also in the Church of Kill-Odhraim (8) if it perchance be different from the last mentioned place. S. AEnguss relates that he died in a place called Letha, which is, Maguir in his Scholia to the Festivity of AEnguss, states, the name of a wood in the Desii, in which is the said Town of Cathair Conchaidh. But that he died in the time of Conall and Kellach, the sons of Moelcobha, King, who reigned with joint power (sociali imperio) from the year 639 until the year 656 in Ireland (9). Geoffry Keting states in Book Second of his History when treating of those Kings: "At this time" he says "died S. Fursaeus, taking (who took) his origin from the race of Lugadius Laga, who was brother of Olild Olom, King of Munster and S. Mochelloe who erected the Church of Kill Mochelloe. But this Saint Mochelloe was descended from the race of Conarius." His festival is celebrated in the aforesaid Churches on this 26th day of March according to the domestic Martyrologies, on which even (or also) foreign Hagiographers make mention of him. 312 313 314

Notes, p.749, Col.2:-

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(1) & (2). Mendose, Mottelugum alii rectius Cellenum, sive Kellenum, whom some writers erroneously call Mottelug and others more properly Cellen or Kellen. Mart. Carthusian. Canisius Ferrarius and Fitzimon call him Mottelug. Marian and others below (infra) and more properly call him Cellen or Kellen; Cellen, Celloc, and no being added for the sake of observance and love; Mochelloe is the same name diversely expressed.

(3) & (4). Patre Tuladhrano, velnt alii Obleno, C.1. 316
The Genealogy of Saints C.18, and Selenacius C.16, call him
the son of Oblenus; but the Martyrologies to be hereafter cited
call him the son of Tulachran.

(5). De Stirpe Conarii Secundi C.2. So with Keten above,
the Genealogy of Saints C.18, and Selenacius C.16 (state).

(6) (7) & (8). Prisci Hi-Cairpre & in oppido Cathuir Mac
Conchaidh, etc. So the Martyrologies to be hereafter cited.

(9). Qui ab anno 639, usque ad annum 656 regnaverunt. 317
Ita Catalogus (Catalogus Qu? regum etc.) Hiberniae & Quatuor
Magistri ad hos annos.

(10) & (11). Hac 26 Martii quo etiam externi. So at the
same day the Martyrology of Tamlaet (says) "Saint Mochelloc,
the son of Tulodhran, of Cathuir Mac Conaigh." Marian Gorman
(says) "Saint Kellan, the son of Tuladhran, in the Territory,
etc." And the Martyrology of Donegal (speaks) in the same
words. Saint AEnguss in his Festilogy (says) "In Letha died 318
S. Mochelloc after many days of life (post multos vitae dies)."
Where observe that Leatha, frequent in our histories, denotes
one time, Latium or Italia: another time Lethana Territory (or
country - regionem) in Britannia, Armorica (and) another time,
a certain wood in the Desii, which was formerly called Fiodh
Lethan, id est, Sylva lata, that is Broadwood. And that it
is to be taken here in its third or first acceptation, Cathald
Maguir states in his Scholia to (or on - ad) the aforesaid
words to S. AEnguss: "Letha" he says "that is Fiodh Lethan at 319
Lismore, the name of the place in which he (S. Mochelloc) died,
sive nomen (qu? nemus. The translation would then be, or the
wood where he died) ubi obiit, or in Rome as others say; or in
Kill Dachelloc in Hi-Cairpre in Munster, but it is more true
(or probable - verius) that he is Cellen the son of Taulodhran
in the Desii of Munster, of Cathuir Mac Conchaid. In Letha it
is said here, that is Letha, the name of a great wood in the 320
Desii of Munster, and in it was formerly that "City" (namely
Cathuir Mac Conchaidh); these he. But the Calendar of Cashel
seems to indicate that the same place is now called Killothrain,
saying: "S. Mochelloc of (de) Killothrain, of (de) Cathuir Mac
Conchuidh." Of him, Fitzsimon in his Catalogue also treats: "S.
Motalog" he says "Abbot, 26th March, Patron of Kellocia." Pet-
rus Canisius Ferrarius in Catalogo Generali, read Mottellog: "In
Ireland (festival?) of S. Mottellog, Abbot." Martyrol, Carthus-
ianum mistakenly distinguished him from S. Mochelloc, Bishop,
saying: "S. Mokellock Episcopi & Confessoris." And afterwards: 321
"In Hibernia Mottellogi Abbatis & Confessoris." For Mochelloc,
Bishop, is the same (person) whom others call Mottellog, Abbot,
as is evident from what has been now said.

Cill Mocheallogg alias Cilldacheallogg - Annals 4 Masters. 322

A.D. 1028. Flithnia O'Tigernain, lecturer of Cilleda-cheallogg (Kilmallock) died.

A.D. 1050. Conall, Aircindeach Cille Moceallogg agus a Ferleighbinn cedus, decc.

A.D. 1050. Connall, Erenach of Kilmallock and its Professor first, died.

A.D. 1412. Eda Leis (Lacy) and the son of the Earl of Kildare were slain by each other at Cill Mocheallog (Kilmallock).

A.D. 1567. The Earl of Desmond was taken prisoner at Kilmallock by the Lord Justice, who conveyed him from thence to Limerick; from thence to Galway; from thence to Athlone and finally to Dublin. His capture took place a short time after the festival of St. Patrick. 323

A.D. 1571. James Mac Maurice (Fitzmaurice) took Kilmallock, having been induced to do so, not from a desire (d'ailgeas) of acquiring possession of its riches and wealth (although its riches were so abundant as to be a great inducement) but because it had always been the rendezvous and sallying point of the English and Geraldines in their contests with him. In the morning before sunrise those who had gone to sleep happily and comfortably were aroused from their slumber by a furious attack made by the warlike troops of the Mac Sweenies and Mac Sheehies who were in the army of James Mac Maurice. They took the town and proceeded to divide between them its gold, silver, various wealth and valuable jewels, which the father would not have acknowledged to his heir, or the mother to her daughter, on the day before. 324

They were occupied three days and nights in carrying away the various kinds of wealth, consisting of cups, goblets and other rich articles, upon their horses and steeds to the woods and forests of Eatharlach, and sending more of them privately to their friends and wives. They then set fire to the town which soon became enveloped in a heavy cloud and a black, dense and gloomy mantle of smoke, so that Kilmallock became the receptacle and abode of wolves and carnivorous animals after all its other misfortunes. 325

A.D. 1579. James, the son of Maurice Duff, who was son of John, who was son of Thomas, who was son of the Earl, returned from France, and it was reported that he had brought with him a greater number of ships than was really the case *** ** (See Limerick at this year, p.459, for the entire of this article). 326

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, Sir William Drury, was at this time in Cork and with him were also the Earl of Kildare and Sir Nicholas Maulby. These (noblemen) set out towards the Co. of Limerick and pitched their camp in the neighbourhood of Kilmallock. Hither the Earl of Desmond came to meet them and endeavoured to impress it upon their minds that he himself had not participated in the proceedings of James Mac Maurice, and had not been instrumental in drawing him into the country or in the crimes committed by his relatives; and he delivered up to the Chief Justice his only son and heir as a hostage to ensure his fidelity to the Crown of England, etc., etc. 327

A.D. 1581. (See Kenry at this year).

A.D. 1596. (See Limerick at this year, p.473, for the whole of this article).

When these Chiefs had joined O'Neill's people and all the neighbouring territories had been leagued with them, they marched with all their forces at the instance of the sons of Thomas Roe, the son of the Earl (of Desmond) into the Country of the Fitzgeralds. They first went to the Co. of Limerick. The President, Sir Thomas Norris, was at this time at Kilmallock and when he understood that he was not capable of engaging (coping) with them, he avoided meeting them and went to Cork. 328
The Irish then proceeded westwards across the River Mang to Connello and the borders of Sliabh Luachra and Glean Corbraighe (Glencorbery). Here James, the son of Thomas Roe, came to join them. His brother James, the second son of Thomas Roe was along with them already upon their march, for he had gone to guide them into the Country.

When the Earl of Ormond had heard of the progress of these warlike troops, he set out with all his cavalry and infantry to the Co. of Limerick to meet them and sent a message to Cork ordering the President to meet him at Kilmallock. As soon as the Irish army, who were encamped in the west of Conillo, had heard of this, they marched eastwards towards Kilmallock to shew themselves to these two Lords. Upon seeing them, the Lords (i.e., the Earl and the President) agreed to avoid meeting them and turned off to Maigh-Balla. The Irish pursued them to the gates of Maigh-Balla and proceeded to defy, provoke and dare them to battle, saying that they (the Earl, etc.) could never wreck their vengeance upon them better than now when they were upon one plain. These two great men, however, declined giving battle, and the President repaired to Cork and the Earl to his Territory. 329

A.D. 1599. *** *** *** During the days that the Earl of Essex was storming Cahir, Sir Thomas Norris, the President of the two Provinces of Munster came to Kilmallock to meet 330

the Earl on his way to Limerick. He remained nearly a fortnight in this town awaiting the coming of the Earl across the Suire and was daily in the practice of scouring the mountains of the Co. of Limerick to see if he could injure (wound) or capture any of the Queen's enemies. One day that he went to the eastern extremity of the Co. of Limerick, he unexpectedly met Thomas Burke (the son of Theobald, who was son of William, who was son of Edmond) from Castleconnell. Thomas alone was on horseback, of all his people; he had near one hundred Irish foot soldiers with him. As soon as the President had perceived him, he made a furious and determined attack upon him and slew about twenty of his people, and would have slain more were it not he himself was soon wounded by a violent thrust of a spear (in the place) where the jaw joins the upper part of the neck. When his people saw him wounded they collected around him and carried him back to Kilmallock, where he remained a week in bed under the care of physicians, and died in the month of July. 331

A.D. 1600. Letters arrived (came) from England to Munster this year in the month of July, the purport of which was as follows: That the youngest son of the Earl of Desmond (viz., James, the son of Garrett, who was son of James, who was son of John) whom the Queen had detained as hostage for his father's and brother's rebellion against her, had supplicated the Queen and was set at liberty. This was after he had been twenty one years in confinement. Orders were also given in these letters to proclaim throughout the assemblies and Towns of Munster that this young son, James, the son of Garrett, was going to Ireland as an honourable Earl by the authority of the Sovereign and that all his relatives and followers who were in rebellion, would now, upon their return to the Sovereign and this young Earl, be restored to their dignity and honor and their crimes forgotten. This young Earl arrived in Ireland accompanied by a great army in the month of October following. Upon his arrival in Cork the President and the Earl of Thomond repaired thither to welcome him and they accompanied him through Magh-Ealla and Kilmallock, and from thence to Limerick. All the inhabitants of the Country of the Geraldines, upon recognizing this young Earl to be the rightful heir, immediately joined him, and those whom James, the son of Thomas, had placed as guards in Castlemaine, gave it up to the young Earl. The Earl then gave the possession of it to the President. 332

Cill Mocheallog - Irish Calendar. 333

7th March. Mo Cheallog ó Chill Mocheallóg mac ollam do Shlioacht Mumhain. 334

22nd December. H. Mocheallog ab agus is leis do frithe ar tíg Cill Mochealloigh mac oblinn do Shlioacht Chonnaide Móir Airdrigh Eirionn. 335

Cill Raith*.

Ratnat Chille Raith, 5th August.

* Cill-na-Ratha, near Newport. - E.C.

Cilltidhil.

Seacht n-Epscoip, Cill Tidhil, 1st November.

Gough's Camden:-

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Kilmallock, now reduced to one street; was formerly a town of great note, being walled, and the houses beautifully and elegantly built of hewn stone.

It is now in ruins, only one street entire, and pieces of the walls with Castles at the angles; yet has so great a share of the magnificence as to be called by Dr. Campbell the Balbec of Ireland. It retained the privilege of a borough till the Union, having a charter from Edward VI, confirmed by Elizabeth, and gave name to an Earl. The present Parish Church 338 belonged to an house of Canons Regular founded in the 7th century (Archdall 810). The Dominicans had a house here whose ruins within the tower bespeak it to have been an elegant building (H. Farrar 441 & 449. Campbell's Phil. Surv. of Ireland 213. Where see a view of its ruins). About three miles from it are the ruins of Cragane Castle.

O'Flaherty's Ogygia, Vol.II, Part III, Chap.LXXIX, p.291. 339
Kilmallock.

Achy Mogmedon, King of Connaught, did not suffer the assassination of his father, King Muredach Tiry, to be long unrevenged; for he dethroned and killed King Cosloed and ascended the throne.

Euny Kennsalach, from whom the Hy-Kennsalachas are sprung, King of Leinster, was a constant enemy to King Achy, whom he conquered in thirteen engagements. They say Laurad, the great grandson of Cathir, Monarch of Ireland, was his father; but I should think he was at least his great grandfather and that Cathir, his ancestor in the sixth generation, died almost two hundred years before this era, as Conn of the Hundred Battles (p.292) the successor of Cathir, was the sixth lineal ancestor to Achy, cotemporary with Euny.

At this time, we are told, a Priest was sent from Rome to Ireland to propagate the Christian Religion. By his name Alby was baptized when a boy.

At the same time St. Dimma, a religious wise man, flourished in Ireland, who is said to have educated Saint Declan, Patron of the Desies, and Saint Carbry, who were afterwards promoted to the mitre.

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Eucharis, Bishop of Tholouse and Eliphis, his brother, with their sisters Libaria and Susanna, fellow-citizens of St. Mansuetus, the first from Ireland who had been Bishop of Talen, had suffered martyrdom in Lorrain in the Julian persecution. The memory of another of their sisters, the Virgin St. Menna, is held in the highest veneration there in the Church de Portu Suavi.

St. Mochelloc, after whom the Town of Kilmallock in Munster is so called, St. Bean, St. Colman, St. Lachnin, St. Mobi, St. Findlug and St. Caminan, flourished in the Plains of Scutum in the Country of the Desies, not far from Lismore.

De Burgo. Hibernia Dominicana. Chap. IX. XXII. Page 283.

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Of the Monastery of St. Saviour at Kilmallock in the Co. of Limerick in Munster in the year 1291 and of the Vicarial House of Ballingall, Burgus Anglorum, in said County.

Summary:-

1st. Nomenclature and description of the Town of Killock, otherwise Kilmallock.

2nd. A Monastery erected there by the Friars Preachers, the ruins of which as yet remain showing the magnificence of the work. Its founder, Gilberta Geraldine (in Irish Gibbon) from whom the family of Fitz Gibbon is named.

3rd. The actual possessor of the estates. The only Bishop of Limerick of the Dominican Order. Some distinguished members of this Monastery.

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4th. Of the House of Burgus Anglorum which was Vicarial, otherwise Conventual, at least doubtful.

5th. Three Fathers of this Monastery in the year 1756.

1st. Killochia otherwise Kilmallockia (Utroque Nomine Vocatur in antiquo Catalogo Coenobiorum Hiberniae Dominicanae, at Cap. II, Num. VI, Page 38 videre poteris) (in Irish) Cillmealoc, that is (the Church of Malloc); in English Killmallock is a (the) Head Town of a Barony of the same name in the Co. and Diocese of Limerick under the Arch-Bishop of Cashel (Legesis Cap. I, Num. XII, Page 18) formerly indeed very beautiful, built of stone (Vivo Saxo) but now disfigured by the devastations of

War and almost obliterated; nevertheless very many of the walls of the splendid apartments and the stone walls entirely remain, as I myself have lately seen.

It gives the title of Viscount to the family of Sarsfield. It is a Town corporate, the Chief Magistrate of which is called in English Sovereign. It is also a borough town (Consuetudum Cap. I, Num. XXII, Page 31). It is distant from Dublin one hundred and three miles; from Limerick eighteen; from Cashel twenty six; from Cork thirty two; from Galway fifty eight; from Londonderry one hundred and sixty three. 343

2nd. That the Friars Preachers had a Monastery in this place and indeed founded in the year 1291 can be a doubt to no person, the unanimous consent of Writers (Anonymus Scriptor Antiqui Catalogi mox citati; Waraeus de Antiquitatibus Hibern. Cap. XXVI, page 203; Harrisius Vol. II, Page 277; Alemand. page 230; O'Heynus, page 17; Echardus Tom II, p. XIII) proving that even to an evidence. And surely the ruins of the building itself inside the walls of the town sufficiently and more than sufficiently show to the eye its remarkable magnificence. But who ought to be considered the founder is not so certain for Ware, and after him Allemand and Harris, totally pass him over in silence. O'Heynn however, asserts (p.17) that he was the most illustrious Lord Fitzgeráld, Earl of Desmond, which is certainly altogether true as far as to the race of Gerald, but not as to the Earl of Desmond, as is clearly evident even from this thing that the first Earl of Desmond was Maurice Fitzgerald, son of Thomas (Consulendus X huj Cap. Num. III, page 238) Simiacus (of the Apes) who died in the year 1295 thus created by King Edward III. (Adeas Cap. II, Num. XVI, Lit. I, page 45) on the 27th day of August 1329, as you can read from Lodge elsewhere mentioned (Cap. praes X Num. II, Lit. c., page 237). But the Convent of Killock most certainly was founded in the year 1291 as is evident from what is just said. Therefore the approved tradition of the place is more consistent which shews that this Monastery was built by the grand uncle of the before mentioned Earl of Desmond, that is Gilberta Geraldine, in Irish Gibbon, being the second of the four sons of John of Callan, Baron of Ophaly, the founder of our Convent at Tralee (De eo Sermo fuit, Cap. praes X page 237) ancestor of the White Knight (Tres simul erant Geraldinae Gentis Equites, nempe Eques Albus, Eques Niger, a Pilamiis Colore sic dicti, et Eques de Glynn et Valley (latine de Clivo et Valle) a propriis scilicet Praediorum Nominibus appellatus, qui Trium Familiarum Progenitores erant, ut liquet ex superius, dictis Cap. praes X Num. II, Lit. c., page 237, ubi Geraldinorum textitur Genealogia) as they call him, or of the Clan Gibbon (Clan Gibbon idem sonat ac Stirps Gilberti cujus Territorium - nunc Baronia agri Corcagiensis - Longitudinis erat Viginti Quatuor Milliarium, Latitudinis vero Duodecim, ut advertit Lodgaeus, Vol. I, page 7) 344

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and of the entire family to which the surname of Fitzgibbon is given*. The estates formerly annexed to this Monastery are now possessed by the Chief Magistrate, in English Sovereign, as is said before and by the Corporation as we call them of the Town of Kilmalloe. 346

3rd. I pointed out above the only Bishop of the Dominican Order of the Diocese of Limerick in which, as I have already said, Kilmalloe is situated, when I was speaking of the Monastery at Limerick (Cap. Praes V. Num. VI, p. 213). But a member of this Monastery, James O'Hurley, Provincial of Ireland, was Bishop of Emly, whom Terence Albert O'Brien immediately succeeded; also of our Order and also Provincial of Ireland, who received the Palm of Martyrdom, of whom individual mention will be more opportunely made elsewhere. (Cap. XIII, Num. LXIV et Seq. ac Cap. XIV, Num. XII et Seq.). 347

There were many other renowned members of this Monastery in the last century distinguished either by martyrdom or the public opinion of virtue (besides seven Friars with two Priests driven into the sea by heretics); that is Gerald Fitzgerald; David Fox; William O'Gormain; Henry Burgatt and Gerald Fitzgibbon, whose succinct history I am about to exhibit in their own place (Cap. XVI, Num. II, XXII LVI LXXXI & XCII).

4th. Our O'Heynn (p.19) mentions a Vicarial House subject to this Convent in the place of the Irish name of which is Ballingal, that is a town of the English in the same Co. of Limerick superadding these words:- From the year 1650 no person of our Order lived there; of which neglect the greatest care is to be taken in future, if at any time the Lord will favour us. But Ware and Alemand (Waraeus de Antiquitatibus Hibernicis Cap. XXVI, page 203, Alemandus page 230) reckon this house among those that were conventual, although Harris passes it over in deep silence when treating of the Dominican Houses, but elsewhere shewing it to be belonging to the Carmelites. Hence I myself thinking that it should be justly reckoned among our Conventual Houses, which are uncertain, will make mention of it again (Cap. Seq. II). 348

5th. There are three agents in the district of this Monastery in the year 1756, that is R.P. (Praesentatus) Brother Ambrose Mac Crath, Prior, in the 54th year of his age and 29th of his profession; Brother John O'Duane, of the 57th of his age and of the 32nd of his profession and R.P. Lector, Brother Paul Slattery of the 48th of his age and 27th of his profession. 349

* Descendit quidem Fitzgibbon a Geraldinis secus vero Mac Gibbon, qui Surculus est Burgorum Gentis, ut liquet ex antea dictis Cap. praes XIV, Num.III, Lit.9, page 252.

Archdall's Mon. Hib. V.II, p.423, R.I.A.
Kilmallock (was called anciently Killochia & Kilmocheallog).

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Was formerly a town of great note, being walled and the houses beautifully and elegantly built of hewn stone; it is now in ruins, yet has a greater share of magnificence even in that miserable state, than any town in Ireland and a learned and ingenious writer particularly calls it "the Balbec of Ireland"; it still retains the privilege of a borough, sending two members to Parliament; and the Corporation in a petition to the House of Commons in the session of 1733, style themselves the ancient and loyal Borough of Kilmallock.

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Regular Canons.

An Abbey was founded here by St. Mocheallog (Keating) who died between the years 539 and 556 (AA.SS. p.749).

A.D. 1050. Died Conall, who was both Archennach and fessor of this Abbey (4 Mast.). This is now the Parish Church.

Flacispaghe.

Inquisition 11th August XXIX Q. Elizabeth, finds that there had been an abbey or religious house in Kilmallock known by the name of Flacispaghe, on which a stone house was erected by George Meaghe Fitzpatrick of Kilmallock, merchant, and which house with an orchard and garden belonging thereto, was found of the annual value of 6s. 8d. (Chief Remem.).

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Dominican Friary.

The Friars of the Order of St. Dominick seated themselves here A.D. 1291 (War Mon.) and the tradition of the place informs us that the founder of this Friary was Gilbert, the second son of John of Callan, Lord Offaley (Baurk, p.284). A general Chapter of the Order was held here A.D. 1340 (King p.87). Thomas, the eldest son of James, Earl of Desmond, died of a wound he received at Kilmallock. The Earl survived the death of his son and died in the year 1536 (Lodge Vol.I, page 16). April 24th XXXVI Q. Elizabeth, a grant was made to Nicholas Miagh, Sovereign, and to the brethren and commonalty of this town, of the Dominican Friary of Kilmallock, with a Church, etc., and three small gardens within the precincts of the same; eleven acres of land in Kilmallock and a water mill, parcel of the possessions of this Monastery; to hold the same for ever in free soccage and not in capite, at the annual rent of 50s. 8d. Irish Money (Aud. General). But that said grant was forfeited by the non-payment of the said rent; Inquisition 3d. St. Hillary XXXI Elizabeth.

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The ruins of this Monastery, which was situated within the

Lanigan's Eccles. Hist. of Ireland, Vol. II, p. 29.
Kilmallock.

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C. VI. Saint Mochelloc, of whom I had occasion to make mention elsewhere, belonged to these times, having died very old, in some year between 639 and 656. He is usually called Mochelloc of Cathurmac-Conchaidd, once a town in the now Co. of Waterford. It is said that he was a relative of St. Finar of Kinnity. I find him honoured with the title of Bishop but I suspect on weak authority (77). Besides some establishment at Cathurmac-Conchaidd, the foundation of the Church of Kilmallock is usually attributed to him and the name Kilmallock is supposed (it is an absolute certainty - J.O'D.) to be a contraction of Kill-Mochelloc (78). St. Manchan, Abbot of Meno-Droshit, died in 652. He was surnamed the Wise, and enjoyed a great reputation. Some writers make him the same as Manchan, Abbot of Mohill in the now Co. of Leitrim; but there is reason to think that they were different persons. Manchan the Wise was, I believe, the same as the Manchin, or as vulgarly called Munchin, who is supposed to have been the first Bishop of Limerick. For this supposition there is no sufficient authority (84) and as far as I can discover it rests on no other foundation than that Manchan the Wise founded perhaps a Monastery where Limerick now stands or that the first Church in that place was dedicated in his name. Of the identity of Munchin of Limerick with Manchan the Wise, a stronger proof need not be required than that his festival is kept on the 2nd of January, the day assigned to the memory of Manchan the Wise in all the Irish Calendars (85). There is not the least hint in any old document relative to our Church history of this Manchan having been raised to the episcopal rank but the veneration in which he was held at Limerick and the circumstance of its oldest Church bearing his name, gave rise at a late period to the opinion of his having been a Bishop. Mistakes of this kind have occurred not only in Ireland, but likewise in other countries.

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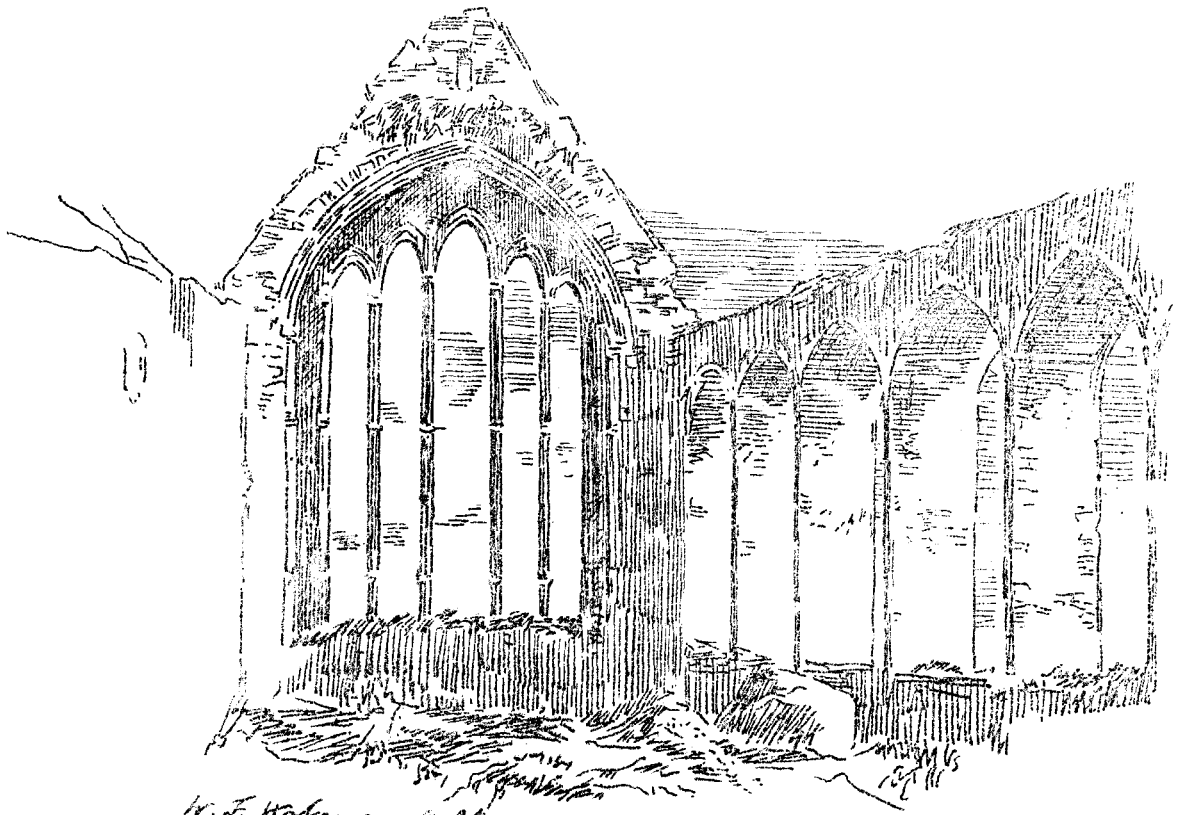
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Notes:-

(77). Mochelloc is not called Bishop in any of the Irish Calendars quoted by Colgan.

(78). Keating says that Mochelloc erected the Church of Kill-Mochelloc. Colgan calls this place a town, meaning, it seems (certainly - J.O'D) Kilmallock. Hence Harris and Archdall ascribe a Monastery at Kilmallock to St. Mochelloc (p.32).

(84). Ware (Bishops at Limerick) says that St. Manchin, son of Sedna, was the first Bishop of that City. He does not refer to any authority nor has any except a passage of a genealogical Hagiology (Ap. AA.SS. p.332) in which among five



*The Chancel of the Abbey of Kilmallock
Co of Limerick.*

Manchans is reckoned Manchinus Lumnichensis (filius Sednae
But this Manchin or Manchán is not called a Bishop, although
a Manchán mentioned just before him is marked by that title.
I do not find either in the Irish Calendars or Annals any Man-
chán Bishop of Limerick, nor even one called of Limerick. It
is very probable that Manchán the Wise was son of Sedna, who
is said to have been a descendant of Cormac Cas, King of Mun-
ster, and the founder of the Dalcassian line of Princes. As
Thomond, in which was comprised the Country about Limerick was
the patrimony of this race, it is natural to suppose that
Munchin, son of Sedna, was greatly revered in that Territory,
of which he was probably a native. And thus it can be easily
accounted for, why there was a Church in Limerick called by
his name, without recurring to the unauthorised hypothesis of
his having been Bishop there; Ware acknowledges that he was
not able to find any account of Munchin's successors at Lim-
erick until about the beginning of the 12th century, and else-
where (Antiquities Cap. 29 at Limerick) says that it is a very
difficult point to ascertain who Munchin of Limerick was. He
mentions the opinion of those who make him the same as Mancenus
who, according to Jacobin, was left in Tirawley by St. Patrick.
We have already seen (Chap. V. 12 and Ib. Not. 118) that this
pretended Mancenus of Saint Patrick's time was no other than
Manchán of Meno-Drochit. But even if he were different and if
there was a Manchán in Tirawley at that early period, how has
it come to pass that neither in Joceline nor in the Tripartite
is a word to be found about the said Manchán having become a
Bishop of Limerick, although the latter work is particularly
minute as to St. Patrick's proceedings in the now County of
Limerick? The fact is, that in Saint Patrick's days there
was (p.33) neither a town, nor I dare say a village, nor Mon-
astery in the place where Limerick is situated. Ware touches
also on the opinion that Munchin was the same as Munchán of
Meno-Drochit, which, strange to think, he supposed to be less
probable than the other. But he assigns no reason for having
thought so. O'Halloran pretends (History etc., B. VIII, Ch.
7) not only that Manchán was Bishop of Limerick soon after
the arrival of Saint Patrick in Ireland and that he had been
employed in Connaught but likewise that before he became Bis-
hop he was Abbot, and the first of Muingharid (Mungret) near
Limerick. O'Halloran confounded Mungret with Meno-Drochit,
notwithstanding their being most clearly distinguished by
Colgan, Harris, etc., etc. The first Abbot of Mungret, at
least on record, was Nessian, who died in 552.

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(85). (See AA.SS. p.333). In Ware's Antiquities (Cap.29) 360
the first of January is mentioned by mistake for the Festival
of St. Munchin, instead of the second. This mistake has not
been corrected by Harris.

From Fitzgerald's History of Limerick (p.341):-

361

Kilmallock is a Rectory and Vicarage in the Diocese of Limerick, united at a period prior to any existing record to the Rectories of Cloncagh; Clonakilty; Corcomohide (Corco Muichead); Crecoragh; Kilfergus; Killgobbin; Killmoylan; Killtearney and Morgans.

An Abbey was founded in this town by St. Mochellog, who died between the years 609 and 656; this is now the Parish Church and is kept in good repair.

The Friars of the Order of St. Dominick seated themselves here, Anno Domini 1291, and we are informed that the founder of this Friary was Gilbert, the second son of John of Callan, Lord of Offaly; its ruins, which may still be seen, give evidence that it was once an elegant structure.

In this Church are the remains of a monument erected to the Verdon family.

Another monument of excellent workmanship contains the following inscription:-

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"D. Walterius Cappinger Eques Auratus hoc funeris et amoris monumentum posuit A.D. 1627; Domino Johanni Verduno ejusque relictae D. Alisonae Haly conjugi suae. Dom. Verdon abiit Aug. 19 1614 Aetatis suae 63. D. Haly obiit October 20th 1626. Aetatis suae 60." - "Surgite mortui venite ad judicium."

"Sir Walter Coppinger, Bart., erected this monument in testimony of his affection to Mr. John Verdon and his widow, Mrs. Alice Haly, in the year 1627. Mr. Verdon died Aug. 19th 1614, aged 63; Mrs. Haly died October 20 1626." - "Arise ye dead and come to judgement."

On a tomb of the Fitzgeralds in the same Church is the following:-

"Non fugiam prius experiam, non mors mihi terror."
"I will not fly, I'll fortune try; death's to me no terror."

In this Church is also a beautiful monument of white marble belonging to the family of Lord Blakeny, who was rendered famous by his defence of Minorca; and in the Church of St. Peter and Paul is the following curious inscription to the memory of three relations named Burgate, who, it appears, fell fighting for their country. (This is now much mutilated - J.O'D.).

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Tertia lux caesos memorat Septemb. in anno
Quam legis Heu nondum - Tres tenet Urna,

Senes Marte, nepos fratrisque ruunt tria planora justo
 Jus patriae causam rexque fidesque
 Probant. Integer attritis reperitur
 Candor. In extis virginis et veri
 Purpura. Martyrii. Lillia, purpureos
 Inter Eudentia, Fluctus tres Meruere
 Trium Nomina Marmor habe.

Fratres (George)
 (Edward) Burgate.
 Nepos Alexander)

Date 1642.

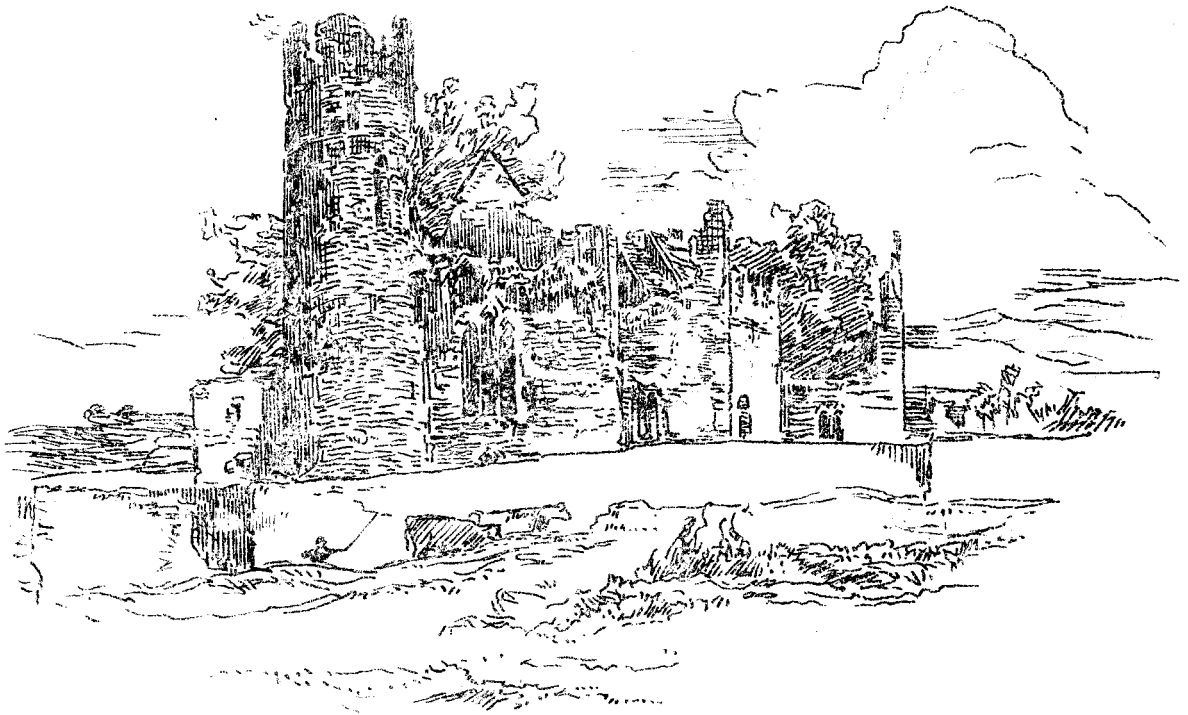
Reader, this year, it grieves my heart to tell
 In battle three relations nobly fell;
 Fighting for King, Religion, Country, Laws;
 Angels and men approve the glorious cause!
 Their mangled sides exhibiting to view
 The Virgin's white and martyr's purple hue!
 Well may the herald's emblematic lore
 Their bright achievements blazon o'er and o'er;
 With dew dropt lilies in a purple stream
 Marble immortalize each heroes name.

Brothers (George)
 (Edward) Burgate.
 Nephew Alexander)

Fitzgerald, the White Knight, is buried in the Dominican
 Abbey, where is shown a small hollow on his tomb which is pre-
 tended to have been formed by a continual drop of rain called
 in Irish, Braon-Sinsior, that is, the Hereditary Drop, as a
 mark of displeasure from heaven for his great cruelties to his
 Catholic countrymen. 364

Kilmallock has with great propriety been denominated the
 "Balbec of Ireland." The ancient walls, which in many places
 still remain, appear to have formed an oblong square with a
 Castle at each angle, and the houses were built of hewn stone.
 The principal entrance to the town was by a lofty turretted
 gateway, which led into a street uniformly built; once, no
 doubt, a scene of bustle and animation, but now exhibiting
 the stillness of a sacked and desolated City, with magnificent
 ruins of ecclesiastical, military and civic edifices scattered
 on every side, which remind the passenger of the grandeur and
 prosperity of their former owners. Of such a scene the fol-
 lowing lines of Mr. Pope are peculiarly descriptive:-

"The levell'd town with weeds lies cover'd o'er
 The hollow winds thro' naked temples roar



*The Parish Church at Kilmallock
with its Round tower
October 17, 1840*

Round broken columns clasping ivy twined
 O'er heaps of ruins stalks the stately hind
 The fox obscene to gaping tombs retires,
 And savage howlings fill the sacred quires."

The Abbey of Kilmallock stands on the east side of the tower outside the town wall. It is an extensive ruin, but nothing in point of magnificence to other Abbeys we have seen in Ireland. It consists of several divisions, of which the following are the principal:-

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A beautiful Chapel extending to the east of the tower and measuring sixty six feet six inches in length on the inside and twenty four feet in breadth. It is lighted by six Gothic windows placed on the south wall and measuring about twelve feet in height and five feet in width, and by a very magnificent one placed on the east gable and measuring about twenty feet in height and sixteen feet in width on the outside and divided into five compartments pointed at top.

Within this Chapel is a monument to the White Knights, now much mutilated and exhibiting the following inscription:-

"Hic tumulus erectus fuit in memoriam
 illus; stemmatis Geraldinorum qui vulgo
 vocantur Equites albi.
 Johannes cum filio suo Edmundo et Mauricio
 filio preaffati Edmundi et multi
 alii ejusdem familiae hic tumulantur."

This is the tomb on which the Braon Aillse fell and formed a hole in the stone to mark the displeasure of Heaven. The arches from which the tower springs are unusually narrow; they are seven feet six inches in width and twenty four feet in height.

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Another Chapel extends to the west of the tower and measures eighty seven feet in length and twenty four feet in breadth. Its south wall is destroyed, but the north wall is perfect and contains three windows and two pointed doorways. Its west gable is in good preservation and contains one pointed doorway and over it a large Gothic window. The side walls of these Chapels are about twenty eight feet in height and vary in thickness from two feet nine inches to three feet ten inches; the south wall is two feet nine inches but the north wall and west gable are three feet ten inches in thickness.

The western Chapel may be called the nave and the eastern the choir of the Abbey Church, but the choir arch is a miserable one.

North from the tower extends another long house measuring

ninety feet in length and seventeen feet four inches in breadth and lighted by eleven windows of various forms and sizes.

To the south of the tower there is another Chapel or transept, on the north side of which there are two large pointed arches. It measures thirty eight feet in length and thirty six in breadth and is lighted by three windows, two of which are on the east wall and a very large one on the south gable, which is divided into five compartments. There is another small window on the same gable near the south west corner. The western side of the tower was destroyed, according to tradition, by the great warrior Cromwell. 367

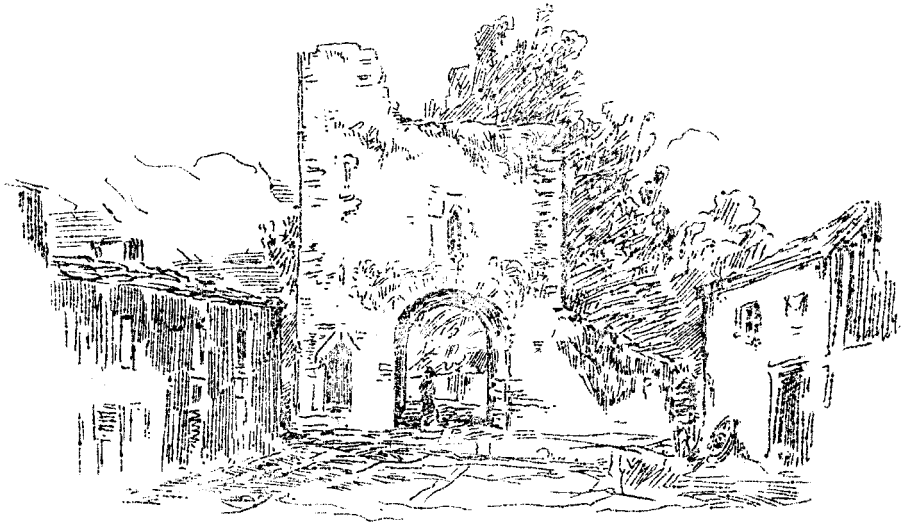
Between the north wall of the western Chapel above described and another building called the refectory, is an open square of considerable extent, near the north western extremity of which is the monument to the three brothers of the name Burgate, the inscription on which has been above given by Fitzgerald. This monument is now much mutilated and the antiquary has to rejoice that its inscription has been preserved by the author of the History of Limerick. "Tertia lux caesos" etc.

The refectory, or as the people call it "dwelling house" of this Abbey consists of a large kitchen, arched overhead, and over it a large dining room. The kitchen is fifty six feet in length and nineteen in breadth and the height to the top of the vault is about sixteen feet. It had two apartments off it, one at the east end and the other off the south side. This kitchen has two large fire places and is lighted by five windows, of which four are on the north wall and one on the west gable, and it is (was) entered by four pointed doorways, one on the west gable, two on the south wall and one at the east end, which is now just destroyed.

The dining room over this kitchen is a very spacious one, being sixty seven feet six inches in length and thirty two feet in breadth. It is lighted by seven quadrangular windows, of which four are on the north wall and three on the east gable; but its south wall, which probably contained several windows, is destroyed. 368

"The Church of St. Peter and Paul."

The chancel or eastern portion of the old Church of St. Peter and Paul is now used as the Protestant Church of Kilmallock. This portion is forty nine and a half feet long by twenty five and a half feet in breadth; the walls being three feet in thickness. The western portion or nave is eighty feet long by sixty five feet in breadth; it contains fourteen windows, which are all in the pointed style. There are on each side four lofty pointed arches springing from large square pillars, dividing the centre from the side aisles. There were also arches springing



South Gate of Kilmallock

from these pillars in a lateral direction, terminated by the walls on each side; but they are now destroyed. The tower situated at the north west corner is round and its style seems a modification of the ancient Irish Clogás, and intermediate between it and the Norman tower of subsequent ages.

There is a small building at the south east corner formed by the south wall projecting nineteen and a half feet; the breadth of this building from east to west is twenty four feet. It is separated from the main body of the Church by a pointed arch. The walls of this Church, which are parapeted, are, including the parapet, about forty feet in height. 369

Of the Church of St. Mocheallog.

The foundation of the old Church to which, according to tradition, the name Cill Mocheallog was originally given, still remains; it is situated on the south side of a hill on rising ground about a quarter of a mile north west of the Town of Kilmallock. There are only about two feet in height of the walls of this old Church now remaining and they are nearly covered with earth and grass. The length of St. Mocheallog's Church is twenty two and a half feet; its breadth twelve feet three inches and the thickness of its walls three feet. The few stones of the foundation which can now be seen are large and no lime mortar can be observed between them. There is a small grave yard attached to this ruin, but it is scarcely ever used at present. 370

Very considerable remains of the town wall of Kilmallock are still visible. One of the gates with its tower is in tolerable preservation, and a square tower or castle stands in good preservation near the west end of the town. Many ancient houses are still to be seen in this ancient town, of which the artists should make careful sketches before the hand of improvement disfigures them all.

J. O'Donovan.

Aug. 12th 1840.
